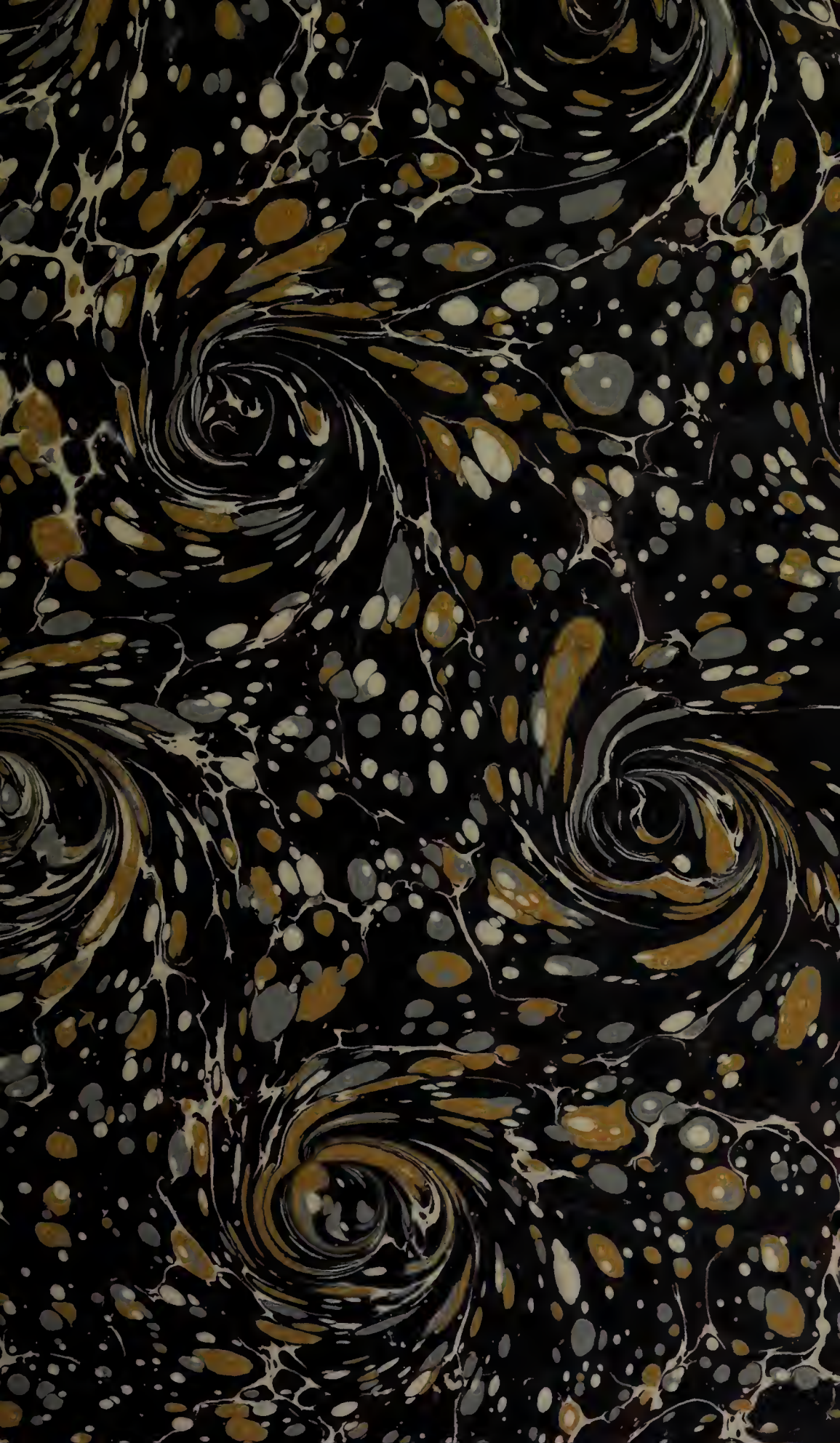








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A
DOSE FOR THE DOCTOR;
O R,
A BITTER PILL
F O R
GEORGE MOSSMAN:
CONTAINING
An ACCOUNT of his LIFE
A N D
ADVENTURES on this SIDE the TWEED,
And ENDING with his CONVERSION,
By ONE of his MAJESTY's JUSTICES.

*If you would angle for an hungry Scot,
Tempt him with Beef, and shew him sparkling Port,
And soon the Rogue is caught, and says, and does,
Whate'er you bid him.*

BEAUMONT AND FLETCHER.

LONDON, 1796.

30843



DEDICATION.

To Lieut. Colonel Busfeild.

SIR,

I take the Liberty of dedicating to you the following Pages, which contain no Caricature, but a faithful Portrait of a Person, whom I am sure,
from

from the best of Motives, you have honoured with your Patronage and Protection.

I am told that you have drawn him out of the dangerous “Ænigmatic Wilds” of DEMOCRACY, and placed him on the sure and solid Ground of Constitutional Liberty. I hear, with Pleasure, that he has abjured his former Errors, and hope his Conversion will
 prove

prove as real and sincere, as your Conduct, on this Occasion, was laudable and benevolent. The Event alluded to, I assure you, has given great Satisfaction to the Inhabitants of this Place, as the good People of Bradford rejoice more over ONE DEMOCRAT that repenteth, than over Ninety and Nine good Subjects that need no Repentance.

I take this Opportunity of
acknowledging the polite At-
tention I received from you,
whilst I had the Honour of
being under your Command,

And am, SIR,

With great Respect,

Your obliged

Humble Servant,

Sam. Hailstone.

Bradford, January 11th, 1796.

TO THE
PUBLIC.

I HAVE taken the Liberty, in the following Pages, to bestow on the Person, who styles himself M. D. the plain Title of George Mossman, because I seriously believe him to be intitled to no other. That he did not graduate at Edinburgh, as he had given out, was asserted by Dr. Garnett; and at last, though unwillingly acknowledged by *himself*; and I have reason to think, that he never had a Degree in Physic any where else. He got, it seems, a few Guineas by officiating as an

Usher

Usher in a School at Kelso, near Edinburgh ; these enabled him to cross the Tweed, and proceed thro' England, as far as Beverley, in this County : There he engaged himself as a Journeyman Apothecary, and when he had got a fresh supply of Cash, he proceeded further, and came to Bradford. I know it is not uncommon for a Person designed for Physic to pass some Time with an Apothecary, *before* he takes his Degree, but I believe no Instance can be produced of a Person who was really a Doctor of Physic, *afterwards* becoming a Journeyman and receiving Wages. Besides, it is usual for a young Physician, on his settling in any Town,

to

to present some of the most respectable Inhabitants with the *Thesis*, or Latin Exercise, which he composed for his Degree : This was done by Dr. Garnett and Dr. Burton, on their coming to Bradford, but was never done by George Mossman, tho' he was repeatedly called upon to do it.

I think, too, we have another strong presumptive Proof of his being *no Physician*, in the Ignorance he discovered in the very extraordinary Case of the *Cherry Stones*. This Ignorance might easily be accounted for, and perhaps pardonable in a *Journeyman Apothecary*, but would have been
hameful

shameful and inexcusable in a Gentleman who had a just Claim to the honourable Title of M. D. When a *Physician*, (Dr. Davison) was called in, he immediately pronounced it to be a Case of *Pregnancy*, while George was consulting the Apothecaries in Bradford, and asking for Books which might direct him how to move these fixed and formidable Stones, which he had tried in vain to move by *Cathartics*, *Emetics*, *Diuretics*, &c. and which, fortunately for his Patient, had no Existence but in his own weak Imagination. Hence I think it appears evident that George has no Claim whatever to the Title of M. D. unless by it he means

Mock.

Mock Doctor, a Title which he certainly may assume, if he pleases, and no one, I believe, will call in question his Right to this very significant and well-chosen Appellation.

George has reproached *me* with Negligence of Style, and I own I have afforded some Grounds for this Reproach, for being totally unambitious of shining as a Writer, and solely attentive to *Truth*, I paid, perhaps, too little Regard to the Arrangement of Words and Syllables. George on the other Hand, has been totally *regardless of Truth*, and only solicitous to make his Periods smooth and inoffensive to the Ear.

In this important and difficult Attempt, he is said to have been assisted by the famous *Political Preceptor*. A few Months ago, this Man, who is a *Priest* as well as a Politician, (and unfortunately for us, most Priests are Politicians) read Political Lectures in his Chapel, and took Sixpence from each Person who wished to be admitted, and to have the Satisfaction to hear the Government of the Country reviled and abused. I believe the Public will agree with me, that the Conduct of this Man furnishes an additional Argument in support of Mr. Pitt's Bill against Seditious Meetings, and Assemblies, and that it was necessary for
the

the Peace and Tranquillity of the Country, that *Shops of Sedition* of all Kinds, should be shut, and that *Political Quacks*, both sacred and profane, should no longer be permitted to vend their Sixpenny Doses of Sedition, to poison the Minds of the Ignorant and Unwary, and spread Discontent and Misery among his Majesty's Subjects. By the bye, his present Patron may judge how sincerely George has repented of his Errors, and how much his *Conversion* may be depended on, from his Correspondence and Habits of Intimacy with this *Democratic Lecturer*.

I hate Personality as much as any Man, but as George has treated me
with

with much of this Kind, which is totally *false*, I think the Public will not be displeased if, in turn, I treat him with a little that is strictly *true*. If he finds it rather unpalatable and bitter, he must attribute it to his own Folly and Misconduct, which are the nauseous Ingredients of which the following Dose is composed.

I hope it will be Efficacious and operate to a proper Degree: If not, it must be repeated.

A DOSE for the DOCTOR;

OR,

A BITTER PILL

FOR

GEORGE MOSSMAN, &c. &c.

“ Plain Truth, George Mossman, needs no Flowers of Speech.”

POPE.

WITHOUT apologizing for the Plainness of my Language, or complimenting you on the borrowed Excellence of yours, I shall state as clearly as possible the Nature of my Offence towards *you*, that the Public may judge how little I am entitled to the great Quantity of low and vulgar Abuse

A

you

you have repeatedly bestowed on me. *
 In the Paper subscribed by Mr. Hardy, Mr. Bolland, and myself, when we alluded to the active Part you took in a Matter respecting the Bradford Volunteers, we observed, that *you had not been distinguishedly eager for the Establishment, or ardent for the Support of that Corps*; and when we considered that this Corps had never enjoyed the Sunshine of your Countenance, or been supported, in any Degree, by your Liberality, but had been the constant Subject of your Raillery and Abuse, we thought we had treated you, on this Occasion, with much Delicacy and Tendernefs. If we had proceeded (as perhaps we ought) to have examined what
 Weight

* The Public will recollect that George was excluded from a public Ball in the Town of Bradford, on Account of his *un-constitutional Principles*, and unfortunately for me, as one of the Stewards, I was employed to communicate to him this disagreeable Intelligence. Hence his Eagerness to select *me* for the Object of his Attack, and the implacable Enmity, Virulence and Scurrility he has displayed in his Mode of doing it.

Weight your single Testimony ought to have had against *Three* unexceptionable Witnesses ; and if, after having taken an accurate Survey of your Conduct since you had resided in the Town of Bradford, we had attempted to shew what Degree of Credit was due to your Allegations—though the Picture had been fairly drawn, and not a single Feature distorted ; yet that Vanity and Self-Conceit, you are so distinguished for, might have made you fancy it a *Caricature*, though it was in reality, a striking and faithful Likeness. However, as you now provoke me to it by unmerited personal Abuse, both of me and my Friends, † I shall take a Survey of the most striking Parts of your Character and Conduct ; and I flatter myself it will be

A 2

found

† The Corps of Bradford Volunteers, he intimates, was not *purified*, 'till Mr. Hardy, Mr. Bolland, and myself had resigned. I could have wished he would have confined his Abuse to *me*, and let my Friends alone, as they never offended him, and had no Concern in excluding him from the *Constitutional Ball*.

found to be taken with Accuracy and Truth.

In the first Place, I beg leave to put you in Mind of the curious Manner in which you introduced yourself to the Inhabitants of this Place, as it affords one remarkable Instance of your Regard to *Truth*. You gave out, that you were the Son of a Country Gentleman in the Neighbourhood of Edinburgh, who had a Town and Country House, splendid Equipage, &c. &c. and that he allowed you, by way of Pocket-Money, *One Hundred Guineas a Year*.—This Tale drew the Attention of the Ladies; and the *Scotch Adventurer* had probably entrapped some credulous Fair, as to give the greater Probability to his Story respecting his Family and Fortune, he purchased *Two Horses*, engaged a *Servant in Livery*,

Livery, drest smartly, wore *long Ruffles*, &c. &c. * Unfortunately, when he was at the Height of this Pomp and Show, Dr. Garnett came to Bradford, and openly and publickly declared, that all his Assertions were *false*; that his Father was a Peasant in Scotland, that he had no Carriage, but a Cart, and that all that George brought with him to Bradford, was a good Portion of Scotch Impudence, and a few Guineas he had earned by the Labour of his Hands as a Journeyman in an Apothecary's Shop at Beverley. That you acted with Spirit in sending Dr. G. a Challenge on this Account

A 3

I

* As the Servant was necessary only on particular Occasions, he was not hired in the usual Way, but was paid so much every Time he attended his Master. By this Means he escaped paying the Tax upon Servants. But this was not the only Thing in which George displayed his Ingenuity on this Occasion. The Man having a decent *blue Coat* of his own, George thought it was unnecessary to give him one, and therefore, only purchased him a *yellow Lining*, which was so ingeniously managed, that by Means of Hooks, it could, at any Time, be separated from the Coat, and George, by this Means, had a Servant either in or out of Livery, as his Necessities required.

I grant, but you know that at the Interview which took Place, he persisted in his Assertions, and urged you to sign a Paper acknowledging the Truth of his Allegations. You spurned the Proposal with Indignation, and swore you would sooner be *damned*, than sign a Paper that would bring on you everlasting Disgrace; but finding there was no other way of avoiding a Duel, and being pressed by your Friend to comply, on Condition the whole Transaction should be kept *secret*, and the Paper be shewn to no One, you did sign it, as you justly observed, to your *everlasting Disgrace*, thereby acknowledging that the pompous Accounts you had given of yourself were all *false*. Dr. G. triumphantly shewed the Paper wherever he went, and George Molsman, from that Time, became the Object of Laughter and Contempt in every Quarter of the Town and Country.

It

It will, perhaps, be amusing to consider, that if *Old George* had come into Yorkshire, when his Son was arrived at the Meridian of his Dignity and Consequence, and had accidentally met him between Bradford and Doncaster (where at one Time lay the Object of his Pursuit) elegantly dressed, nicely powdered, with long Ruffles, mounted on his *dappled Grey*, with his Servant in Livery, at an humble Distance behind him; how would the good old Man have stared, wondered, and wept for Joy, embraced Georgy with Transport, and blest the Day when he crossed the Tweed, and left the barren Wilds of Scotland, for the better Pastures of the South. But when, on Enquiry, he found that this Finery was put on, not because he had acquired a Fortune, but because he was hunting after one, and was told that an old sagacious Uncle, at D. insisted upon knowing, before a

Con-

Connection took place between him and the young Lady, where the Family-Seat and Landed Property of the Mofsmans lay ; how would the honest Peasant have exclaimed at the Folly and Roguery of his Son, urged him to doff his foolish Finery, to put on again his long brown Frock, take up the Spade, and assist him and his Brothers to cut *Mofs*, to keep themselves warm the ensuing Winter. *

It will not be improper to take Notice here, as it shews the aspiring Genius of this Gentleman, that when he was but a Journeyman at Beverley, he offered himself to his Master's Daughter, and was rather favourably received; but as the young Lady would not

* What we call Peat in England, I am told, is called *Mofs* in Scotland. Hence the Family Name of Mofsmans, a Cutter and Retailer of Mofs or Peat. So in England is derived the Family Name *Coleman*, and many others.

not marry him *immediately*, as he proposed, without the Consent of her Parents, he grossly *insulted* and *abused* her. The Lady had a Fortune of Two Thousand Pounds ; and if George had behaved well to her, and in a few Months after he had resided at Bradford, returned to Beverley on his *dappled Grey*, with his Servant in Livery, long Ruffles, &c. &c. he had probably succeeded, but *Insolence* and *Abuse* never do good in any Cause, as George, I believe, is pretty well convinced of at present.

I proceed now to another Prank played by George Mossman, in the Town of Bradford, which I believe the Public will think not very becoming or *Gentleman-like* ; and which, if other Proofs had been wanting, would have shewn him to be of a servile Disposition and low Birth.

When

When a scandalous Libel appeared in the Town of Bradford, he prevailed on a Bookseller, his Acquaintance and Friend, to procure it for him, then turned *Informer* against him as Publisher, appeared against him in a Court of Justice, and thus did all in his Power to injure him in his Property and Character. This was an Act of Ingratitude, as the Bookseller had for some Time let him have the Use of a Bed-Room and W. Closet, *for certain Purposes*, without ever charging him a Shilling for the Use of either.— This Behaviour, mean and detestable as it was, was in some Degree excuseable, as he expected to oblige a respectable Family, with whom he had *then* his Beef and Pudding, but who, I am sure, were ignorant of George's despicable Conduct; but he has since been excluded from this Family on Account of his bad political Principles, the worthy-

Master

Master of the House being no less distinguished by his Attachment to the King and Constitution, than by the Goodness of his Heart and the Hospitality of his Board. It should not be forgotten, that at the Time the above Libel appeared, George boldly and publickly attributed it to his *present Patron*, talked of bringing him to Justice (out of Gratitude to his Benefactor, at H.) and bestowed on him every odious and disgraceful Epithet he could think of; but *now*, when he has his Beef and Pudding at M. G. he says, the whole was a shameful Calumny, and that it was falsely and scandalously ascribed to a Gentleman of "*the most dignified Manners, and most acknowledged Worth.*"

You have attempted to raise a Laugh at my Expence, by representing me as an harmless and *dangling* Admirer. In the little Inter-
tercourse

tercourse I have had with the Sex, I can say, with Truth, I have always conducted myself on Principles of Decency and Honour. Have *you* always done the same? What was your Method of Courtship? Recollect the Scenes that passed in the dark Bed-Room, and in the W. Closet of Mr. John N. and the more abominable ones at Clayton Heights, in the Face of the Sun, and before the Eyes of —; but I spare you, out of Tendernefs to a Lady, whose Delicacy and Feelings I am unwilling to wound, or I could detail these Scenes, with such Circumstances of Lewdness, that after reading them, I am certain no modest or decent Woman, whether well or ill, would admit you to her Bedside.

But I quit this disagreeable Subject, and come to the very serious Charges which George Mossman has brought against *me*.

One of these is “ that I was a Correspondent Member of a certain Political Society.” To this Charge I pleaded *Not Guilty*; and I must inform George Mossman, that being the Plaintiff in this Cause, it is his Duty to prove the Charge, and not the Business of the Defendant to disprove it.— Besides, he knows from the wise Determination of Justice B. that *negative Evidence*, however unexceptionable, and however numerous, has no Weight against the *positive* Testimony of a single Individual, however inconsistent and improbable. *

But not content with bringing this Charge against me, without attempting to support

* This was not all;—for his Worship, in his Wisdom, preferred the positive Evidence of one drunken Man, to the negative Evidence of three Persons who were sober. The Point in Question was, Whether certain Words were spoken by a certain Person, at a certain Time. George, who was drunk at the Time alluded to, swore positively that they were; Three other Persons who were present, and sober, swore they were not. I submit to every impartial and *unprejudiced* Person, whether the negative Evidence of three sober Persons, ought not to have outweighed the single Testimony of *one drunken Man*, though that Man was a Doctor,

it by any Kind of Evidence, he has the Modesty to boast of his Forbearance towards me, and then asks me, *if I did not express an indecent Joy at the late Attack made on our Gracious Sovereign?*

To this Question I answer, confidently, in the Negative, and most solemnly declare, that I never expressed any Joy, or even Indifference on that Occasion; but felt that Concern, which I am sure every good Man, and Loyal Subject, must feel on an Event so disgraceful to the Inhabitants of this Country.

As to my Political Principles, I believe them to be strictly good and constitutional; and I am, in some Degree, confirmed in this Opinion by observing, that they have happily been in Unison during the Three last Years,

with

with a great Majority of my Fellow Subjects. But what, Sir, were yours during that Period?

Instead of joining the Country Gentlemen, and Inhabitants of Bradford, in their laudable Endeavours to check the Progress of Seditious and Republican Principles, you stood aloof, wrapt up in *Singularity* and *Self-Consequence*, ridiculed their Attempt to preserve Peace and Tranquillity in the Country, and, on all Occasions, were the Advocate of Paine and his Disciples.

I cannot help thinking my Fate somewhat singular and hard, in being called to Account for corresponding with a political Society, by that Man who was ever praising the Publications and Proceedings of these Societies; and that I should be accused of re-
joicing

joicing at the Insult offered his Majesty, by
 the *only Man* in the Town of Bradford, who
 could, with any Degree of Reason and Pro-
 bability be suspected of such Conduct; I say,
 with any Degree of Reason or Probability;
 for to judge from the Tenor of this Man's
 Conduct, from his known Republican Prin-
 ciples, and the contemptuous Manner he al-
 ways spoke of his Majesty and his Govern-
 ment, such Behaviour, on such an Occasion,
 would have been no way inconsistent or im-
 probable. But I do not charge him with
 such Behaviour, because I will not follow his
 Example in asserting what I do not know to
 be true; and because I have been told, that
before this Event, he had imbibed better No-
 tions, and professed his Attachment to better
 Principles at M. G.

Mr.

Mr. B. too, I understand, has declared, that *before* this time he had made a Profelyte of him; that he has abjured his former Principles, and professed his Attachment to a Government by King, Lords and Commons; and it has been intimated, that to give some Kind of Eclat to his Conversion, and make him some Amends for a Change of Principles, that he is to receive a Commission in the Corps of Bradford Volunteers. I know not how the Officers of this Corps will feel on seeing among them this *notorious Democrat*. To me it would seem just the same Thing, as if *Thelwall* was to have a Commission in the King's Guards, or *Tom Paine* to be made one of his Majesty's Justices, to put in Force the late Acts against Treason and Sedition.

Besides, what has George done to prove his Attachment to the present Government?

B

He

He has drank, it seems, the King and Constitution, joined in singing *God save the King*, and *lately* praised the Bradford Volunteers, and represented their Colonel as a Gentleman of *dignified Manners* and *acknowledged Worth*.— All this is prudent and praiseworthy, and may do at M. G. but the Public will expect some better Proof of a Change of Principles and Politics, before they put Confidence in a Man, who has long been a professed Admirer of Paine's Works, and an active Propagator of his Doctrine.

According to George's *former Principles*, the Charges he has brought against me must appear to *him* trifling and harmless; but if he has seriously and sincerely adopted those of his present Patron, they will appear to him Crimes of the greatest Magnitude, and of the blackest Complexion. Such, I frankly confess,

they

they appear to *me* ; and I solemnly declare, in the Face of the Public, that if George Mossman does not produce Evidence in Support of these Charges, I shall consider him as unworthy any further Notice, and look on him, in future, as a *Calumniator* and a *Lyar* ; and I trust that my worthy Fellow-Subjects, who are ever ready to discountenance *Calumny* and *Falseness*, will join with me in this just and well-founded Opinion.



